

# **State of Iowa Youth Advisory Council**

## **Meeting Minutes - Third Quarter Meeting**

*Monday, March 5th, 2012*

*Iowa State Capitol, East 9th Street and Grand Avenue*

*Des Moines, Iowa 50319*

*Legislative Dining Room*

*9: 30am - 10:00am - Officer Meeting*

*10:00am - 12:05pm - SIYAC Meeting*

### **Officer Meeting called to order at 9:30 by Council Chair Khayree Fitten**

*Members Present:* Annika Bergstrom, Jeff Critchlow, Khayree Fitten, Zack Elsner

*Not Present:* Mimi Barney, Quincy McGee

Khayree asked officers to consider the feasibility of holding a conference call in the near future. SIYAC coordinator Renee Mallo mentioned that the outlook on reimbursements for both regular meetings and Iowa Council of Youth Development Meetings (ICYD) was positive.

Khayree suggested that the Council may want to coordinate another legislative day before the end of the current legislative session. Specifically, the Education Committee hopes to meet with Iowa Department of Education Director Jason Glass by or before the first week of April.

Khayree announced the resignations of Vanessa Shearer, former Secretary and Olivia VanAntwerp, former Environment Committee Chair. He thanked Vanessa and Olivia for their service on the Council and welcomed Annika Bergstrom to the Secretary position. The Environment Committee has been formally discontinued; the members of that committee have been reassigned to other committees.

The officers discussed what needs to be accomplished by the final quarter meeting. Jeff Critchlow suggested that, as always, the Council should look at improving communication between committees and the Council as a whole. Khayree agreed and reminded members of the civic education requirement that everyone agreed to fulfill when they signed on to the Council. All members are required to give a presentation about SIYAC to their local school board and/or city council. Those who haven't yet done so should find time to do this soon.

The officers continued to review the positive aspects of the previous quarter while evaluating what could be improved on in the future. Khayree and Renee contended that more frequent reassessment within SIYAC is itself a step in the right direction. Maintaining communication will always be somewhat of an issue due to members operating in various locations throughout Iowa. Yet is in SIYAC's best interest to consistently work on strengthening connections between the 21 youth representatives through well-managed communication and higher accountability. Renee reminded members that the Council continues to learn and grow with each year. Steve Michael, from the Iowa Department of Human Rights, added that some of the communication difficulties stemmed from having three different coordinators in one year. Frequent changes in leadership is another condition that SIYAC will need to adjust to as well.

### **SIYAC meeting called to order at 9:58 by Council Chair Khayree Fitten**

*Members Present:* Annika Bergstrom, Jacob Bundt, Jeffrey Critchlow, Hannah Cross, Zack Elsner (9:30-1:35), Umar Farooq, Khayree Fitten, Skyler Hill-Norby, Eli Kirschbaum (9:58-1:40), Jessa Marfal (10:00-2:30), Jacob Mayer (10:05), Zachary Stephenson, Natalie Te Grootenhuis

*Members Not Present:* Mimi Barney, Bradlee Birchansky, Raeann Hanlon, Lilly Lenning, Quincy McGee, Blake McGhghy

*Also Present:* Renee Mallo, Steve Michael, Frances Collins-Dusseault, Representative Bruce Hunter, Terri Bailey

**Welcome and Announcements** -- Khayree greeted the Council as quorum was determined to be present. He announced the resignations of Vanessa Shearer and Olivia VanAntwerp, and reminded the Council that officer nomination for next year's term would take place at the fourth quarter meeting. Renee pointed out the GAX reimbursement forms in members' packets.

Renee led an ice-breaker activity, which also served as a review of important leadership skills.

**ACTION ITEM - Interim Secretary Election** -- Khayree asked for approval of the nomination of Annika to the position of interim secretary. Jessa moved to approve the nomination; Eli seconded. The council unanimously approved the nomination.

**ACTION ITEM - Approval of February 2 Conference Call Minutes** -- Khayree asked for discussion and approval of February 2 minutes. Eli moved to approve the minutes; Natalie seconded. The council unanimously approved the minutes.

### **Committee Updates**

**Service Chair Update** -- In Mimi's absence, Renee referred members to a printout in their packets for more information. During this time, Renee also reiterated to the entire council how important it is to regularly review the SIYAC bylaws. Monthly member and committee evaluations will be henceforth reinstated. Vice Chair Quincy McGee will collect these forms from members and pass them on to Renee and Khayree.

**Education Update (10:22)** -- Committee Chair Zack Elsner announced that the Education Committee has finished their research on the blueprint reform plan put forth by Governor Branstad and the Department of Education. SIYAC has sent the research on to Director Jason Glass. Hopefully the committee will be able to meet with Director Glass in April to discuss SIYAC's view on the proposed reforms. Khayree asked about the level of support received from the department. Zack said that the education committee has decided to wait until they meet with Glass before writing position statements. Khayree suggested that members may want to speak about education reform later with legislators. He commended the committee for their great work.

**Health and Wellness Update** -- Committee Chair Jessa Marfal spoke about the "Students Taking Charge" event organized by SIYAC partner Team Nutrition. She and Renee attended the event, which took place on Friday, March 2nd. Jessa and Renee presented at workshops about energy drinks. This is an example of successful, positive outreach for the council that will hopefully attract interested students to serving on SIYAC in the future. Next quarter, the Health and Wellness committee plan to create a program to promote exercise and healthy eating in Iowa schools.

**Violence Awareness Update** -- Committee Chair Jacob Mayer reported that his committee is working with the Iowa Hall of Pride to increase support for the anti-bullying movement. The 7th annual Iowa Governors Conference on LGBTQ Youth takes place on Thursday, March 8. This event is organized

by Iowa Safe Schools and the Drake University Law School. Frances Collins-Dusseault and Renee will be there to represent the Department of Human Rights. Members viewed a packet outlining the various workshops at the conference, which included several sessions pertaining a Lavender Law track. SIYAC members were encouraged to attend these workshops at the conference.

**Legislative Affairs Update** -- Committee Chair Jeff Critchlow regretted that communication within the committee has been slim for some time. He asked for more frequent communication in the future. At this time, SIYAC's official legislative sponsors are: Representatives Bruce Hunter and J. Scott Raecker, as well as Senator Matt McCoy.

**Rep. Hunter announcement (10:31)** -- Representative Hunter thanked SIYAC for their efforts as he encouraged everyone to keep up the good work in future years. He reminded the council to keep in mind that the legislative process is naturally lengthy, while praising the council for its dedication to representing Iowa's youth.

**AMP Staff Address (10:40)** -- Terri Bailey from the Achieving Maximum Potential group spoke to SIYAC as sheets were distributed outlining the group's goals. Presently there are ten AMP councils throughout the state. The group is interested in having additional councils to address the concerns regarding foster and adopted youth in Iowa. SIYAC determined that these issues relate to both the Education and Violence Awareness Committees; perhaps these committees will be look more closely at AMP's requests in the future.

**ACTION ITEM - Present Position Statements and Vote (11:00)**

**1. In Support of statewide ACT implementation**

Natalie moved to approve the statement written by Zack Elsner, Education Committee chair. Jacob Bundt seconded the motion. After several minutes of discussion, Jeff moved to table a vote on the statement until a later date. Eli seconded the motion.

**2. In Support of HF 2345**

During discussion, Rep. Hunter offered his take on the bill that would allow courts to consider if a parent has allowed a sex offender

unsupervised access to their child as a factor during custody cases. Eli moved to approve the statement written by himself, Deputy Legislative Affairs Coordinator and Education Committee member. Natalie seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The statement was not approved by the council, with Jeff, Umar, Khayree, Eli, and Zachary S. voting yes and Hannah and Jessa abstaining.

### **3. In Support of Project Lead the Way implementation**

Zack E. moved to approve the statement written by himself. Skyler seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, Zack E. moved to table a vote until a later date, and Umar seconded.

### **4. In Support of Online Learning Opportunities**

Eli moved to discuss the statement written by Zachary S., Education Committee member. Jeff seconded the motion. After several minutes of discussion, Khayree moved to limit debate to five more minutes, and Eli seconded. A vote was taken, with the council approving the statement; Umar abstaining.

### **5. In Support of HF 2344/SF 2247**

Umar moved to approve the statement written by Eli. Eli seconded the motion. After several minutes of discussion, Khayree moved to limit debate to six more minutes. Eli seconded the motion. A vote was taken, with the council approving the statement; Jessa abstaining.

### **6. In Support of Paid "Parent Liaison" Positions**

Khayree moved to approve the statement written by Blake, Education Committee Member. Eli seconded the motion. After several minutes of discussion, Khayree moved to limit debate to five more minutes. Eli seconded the motion. At the end of the five minutes, Umar moved to amend the limit by extending debate time to five more minutes. Eli seconded the motion. After discussion, Eli then moved to postpone a vote on the statement. Umar seconded the motion. A vote was taken, with the council approving and Khayree voting no.

### **7. Motion to approve AMP agenda and vote**

Umar moved to approve the AMP agenda as presented to the Council. He later withdrew the motion. Skyler seconded the motion. After several minutes of debate, Khayree moved to limit debate to five more minutes.

Eli seconded the motion, with the council's unanimous consent. Through discussion, the council came to the conclusion that SIYAC would not endorse the agenda as it had originally been presented. They would, however, endorse the agenda with one amendment: that the first sub-point under the first point be omitted. Umar then moved to amend his initial motion to not support total consistency between Iowa core classes. Natalie seconded the motion. Umar then moved to approve the agenda as amended. Eli seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. The agenda was approved as amended, with Jessa and Zach S. voting no, Jacob B. and Skyler abstaining. The motion passed at 12:05 pm.

At 12:06 a motion was passed to adjourn the formal meeting.